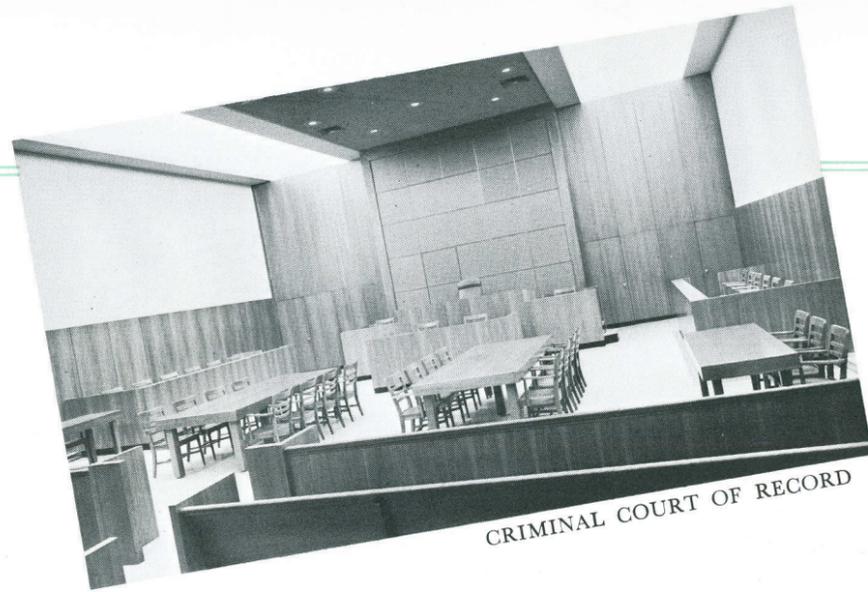
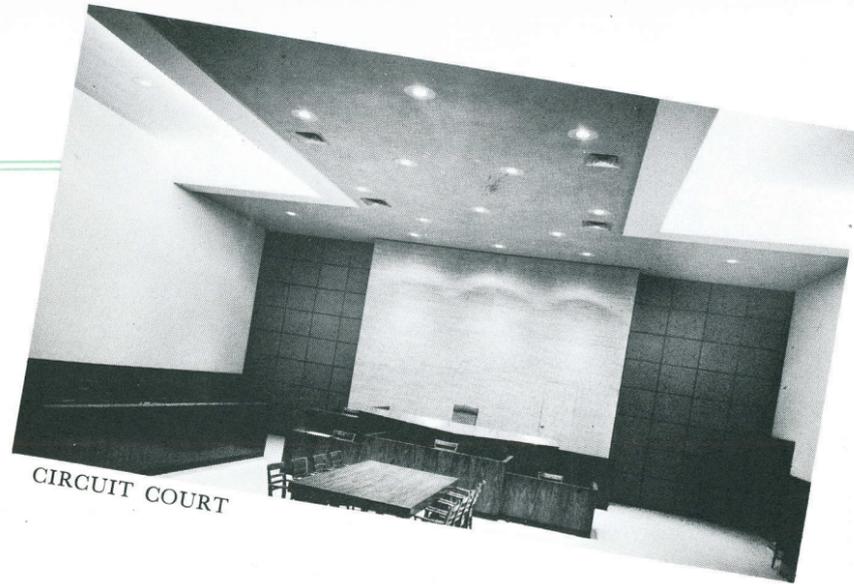




WITNESS LOUNGE ROOM



CRIMINAL COURT OF RECORD



CIRCUIT COURT



JUDGE'S CHAMBERS



SHERIFF'S OFFICE



CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT



COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE



GRAND JURY ROOM



SUPERVISOR OF REGISTRATION



TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM



TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE



FOYER

HISTORY

DUVAL COUNTY has built four Courthouses. T. Frederick Davis, in his History of Jacksonville, tells us that the first Courthouse was built of wood, with brick pillars. It was commenced in 1825, completed in the early 1840's, and was located at the Northeast corner of Market and Forsyth Streets. It was burned by Federal troops, March 29, 1863. The second Courthouse was built on the same site. It was solidly built of brick, with unusually thick walls, and was completed and occupied in 1886. It was so well constructed that its walls withstood the great fire of May 3, 1901, and were used in reconstructing the building after the fire that occupied the same corner.

The third Courthouse was completed in November, 1902, at a cost of \$100,000.00, secured through a bond issue. It was located on the Northwest corner of Market and Forsyth Streets. It served alone until the Courthouse Annex was completed in October,

1916, at a cost of about \$90,000.00, adjoining the main building to the West.

The fourth Courthouse—the present magnificent edifice—far surpasses all its predecessors, and is undoubtedly one of the finest Courthouse buildings in the United States. Complete and modern in every detail, it stands as a fitting symbol of the progress of Duval County over the years and as an assurance that the County will have an adequate home in which to carry on its business affairs for many years to come.

Situated as it is on the South side of Bay Street, between Market and Liberty Streets, it occupies historic ground. For at the foot of Liberty Street was the site of the Cow Ford from which was taken the original name of the settlement; and it was at the foot of Market Street that the settlers assembled in 1822, with Hart and Brady, who settled their disputed boundary question by adopting Market Street, leading

from a large tree on the river bank, as the dividing line between the Masters Grant on the east and the Taylor Grant on the West, when Jacksonville was first platted and laid out as a town.

The building was erected at a cost of \$6,908,000.00. The Courthouse has an area of 347,700 square feet and the jail, 76,000 square feet. The six floors and the mezzanine of the Courthouse and the five floors of the jail are completely air conditioned.

Skillful exterior combinations of dark gray and white cast stone, black and red polished granite and face brick, and for the lobby, dark blue-green venetian terrazzo floors with golden veined marble walls, have added beauty to the functional design of the building. On the east wall in aluminum letters is the inscription "Equality and Liberty under Law is the Foundation of a Government of Free People."